2010 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons

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Main Committee III

Summary record of the 1st meeting
Held at Headquarters, New York, on Monday, 10 May 2010, at 3 p.m.

Chairman: Mr. Nakane ..... (Japan)

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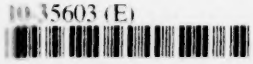

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The meeting was called to order at 3.10 p.m.

Organization of work

1. **The Chairman** said that Main Committee III had the task of dealing with agenda items 16 (d) and (e) and 17 (NPT/CONF.2010/1). In addition, the plenary Committee had established a subsidiary body which would focus on item 16 (e). He drew attention to the draft programme of work for the Committee and its subsidiary body, contained in document NPT/CONF.2010/MC.III/INF.1.

2. *The programme of work was adopted.*

3. **Mr. Cancela** (Uruguay), Chairman of Subsidiary Body III, said that the subsidiary body would discuss provisions of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons that were not addressed by Main Committees I and II or their subsidiary bodies. Its objective was to prepare a consensus text for inclusion in the report of Main Committee III to the Conference. Open, transparent and inclusive consultations would be held in order to determine which topics were worthy of consideration.

General exchange of views

4. **Mr. Abdelaziz** (Egypt), speaking on behalf of the Group of Non-Aligned States Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, noted that the wording of agenda item 16 made it clear that Main Committee III should not only review the Treaty but also take into account the decisions and resolutions agreed upon at the 1995 and 2000 Review Conferences. The Group intended to work with the Committee to agree on a strong and coherent outcome. To that end, he drew attention to the Group's comprehensive working paper (NPT/CONF.2010/WP.46) and, in particular, to the specific proposals contained in the paragraphs relating to the peaceful uses of nuclear energy.

5. **Ms. Lacanlale** (Philippines) said that all States parties to the Treaty had a right under article IV to develop research, production and use of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes without discrimination. The technical cooperation programme of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) was the primary mechanism for implementation of that article. Her delegation therefore welcomed the announcement by the United States of America of an additional commitment of US$ 50 million over the following five years towards a new IAEA peaceful uses initiative. Her delegation encouraged other States to make further contributions, and supported working paper 13 (NPT/CONF.2010/WP.13) submitted by Japan, which stressed the importance of nuclear knowledge sharing and the transfer of nuclear technology to developing countries.

6. Her delegation supported strengthening of the IAEA safeguards and verification regime in order to ensure States' compliance with their non-proliferation obligations. Nuclear security was vital and was the primary responsibility of States. At the same time, her country appreciated the value of regional networks and initiatives, which complemented the work of IAEA. The Philippines was considering the development of nuclear power, and was taking legislative action to ratify the Amendment to the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material. Although notable progress had been made in improving nuclear security, the use of nuclear power still met with widespread scepticism. Further efforts were needed in order to strengthen the security regime and raise awareness. The Philippines also recognized the importance of accession to the Joint Convention on the Safety of Spent Fuel Management.

7. The Philippines supported a multilateral approach to the nuclear fuel cycle, with a central role for IAEA. Such an arrangement would provide options in order to service nuclear facilities, while also strengthening the non-proliferation regime. The consultation process should continue in order to address outstanding concerns. The resulting mechanisms should ensure equal access to nuclear fuels, and guarantee that no State or group of States gained a monopoly over the process. Most of the proposals submitted thus far related to the front end of the fuel cycle. However, the issues of spent fuel management and the proper storage and disposal of nuclear and radioactive waste should also be addressed.

8. **Mr. Kruse** (Australia) said that as the world's third largest producer of uranium, his country took seriously its obligation under article IV to facilitate exchanges for the peaceful uses of nuclear energy. Australia was one of the main contributors to the IAEA Technical Cooperation Fund, and also made significant extrabudgetary contributions to the Regional Co-Operative Agreement for Research, Development and Training Related to Nuclear Science and Technology for Asia and the Pacific. He welcomed the

announcement by the United States Secretary of State that her country would make an additional contribution of $50 million to the IAEA programmes for peaceful uses. The right to peaceful uses enshrined in article IV of the Treaty was clearly linked to the non-proliferation provisions of articles I and II, and it should be exercised in a framework that reduced proliferation risk and adhered to the highest international standards for safeguards, security and safety.

9. Not all States with nuclear programmes needed to have uranium enrichment facilities and proliferation of fuel-cycle facilities would pose serious security risks. A multilateral approach to the fuel cycle with a well-functioning market was the best assurance of adequate supply. The comprehensive safeguards agreement together with the Additional Protocol should be recognized as the verification standard for non-nuclear-weapon States. He hoped that the Conference would reach an understanding on appropriate international responses to withdrawal from the Treaty.

10. His country and Japan had submitted a new package of practical nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation measures to the Conference as working paper 9, which, inter alia, reaffirmed the right of all States parties to the Treaty to the use of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes, supported the work being done by IAEA to provide assistance to States for such use and urged States planning to build nuclear reactors to become parties to the relevant international instruments on nuclear safety. His delegation hoped to see the elements of that working paper reflected in the Committee's report to the Conference.

11. **Mr. Gumbi** (South Africa) said that peaceful nuclear cooperation and access to the benefits of the peaceful uses of nuclear energy were integral components of the Treaty. Scientific exchange was of particular importance to his country and others in Africa that were exploring ways of diversifying their energy sources. As the use of nuclear energy became more prevalent, the activities of IAEA in implementation of its mandate to enlarge the contribution of atomic energy to peace, health and prosperity throughout the world would become increasingly important, notably in accelerating development and reducing poverty in Africa, and in that regard he welcomed the announcement by the United States that it would increase its contribution to IAEA for such activities. It was time to include the IAEA Technical Cooperation Programme under the Agency's regular budget in order to ensure predictable funding and, in general, to treat peaceful uses of nuclear technology on an equal footing with the Treaty's other objectives.

12. **Mr. Abdelaziz** (Egypt) said that, given the continuing impact of the energy crisis and global warming, the use of nuclear energy for both power and applications in health, food, agriculture and water resource management would increase. It was vital for the Conference to take steps to protect the right to peaceful uses of nuclear energy and, in particular, to strengthen and fully fund IAEA technical cooperation activities. The Conference was not the appropriate forum for technical discussions related to safety, security, transport or liability.

13. The 2000 Review Conference had recognized that protection of the right to peaceful uses of nuclear energy was a fundamental objective of the Treaty and that in pursuit of that objective preferential treatment should be given to the non-nuclear-weapon States parties to the Treaty, taking the needs of developing countries, in particular, into account. He expressed concern that talk of multilateral approaches to the fuel cycle would lead to curtailment of the sovereign right of States to develop a full nuclear fuel cycle. Such concerns were compounded by the fact that conditions for technical cooperation imposed on States parties were disregarded when entering into agreements with States that were not parties, in effect rewarding States for remaining outside the Treaty. Similarly, in some quarters there was a tendency to view withdrawal from the Treaty as more of a threat to international peace and security than non-adherence, when, in fact, the reverse was true. It was no coincidence that calls to restrict the right to withdraw were coming from the same sources as the practice of selective imposition of preconditions for technical cooperation.

14. **Ms. Mangin** (France) said that nuclear energy was becoming an increasingly attractive alternative in a world where the price of fossil fuels was on the rise and their cost to the environment becoming increasingly evident. Developing countries were eager to take advantage of the potential contribution of nuclear energy to development, and countries with uranium reserves were eager to exploit them. It was urgent for the international community to facilitate that process while limiting risks.

15. As a country that obtained 80 per cent of its electricity from nuclear power, France felt keenly its obligation to share its considerable expertise in managing the nuclear fuel cycle with the rest of the world. In cooperation with IAEA and with the support of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, it had hosted an International Conference on Access to Civil Nuclear Energy in Paris in March 2010 that had been attended by 63 States, as well as various international organizations and private companies.

16. Increased use of nuclear energy presented many challenges, including preventing illegal trafficking, managing radioactive waste, protecting the environment, and financing training and development. Those challenges would have to be managed by a new nuclear regime administered by a strengthened IAEA. The right to peaceful uses of nuclear energy enshrined in article IV was conditional on a commitment to non-proliferation and the maintenance of the highest standards of safety and security. Such conditions did not make the right to peaceful uses of nuclear energy any less inalienable; on the contrary, ensuring responsible exercise of that right would help to preserve and strengthen it. Her country was as firm in its support of the right to peaceful uses of nuclear energy for countries that complied with international safeguards as it was in its opposition to nuclear cooperation with any country that flouted them. It encouraged the countries with which it cooperated bilaterally to sign the Additional Protocol alongside a comprehensive safeguards agreement.

17. Properly trained human resources were critical to all aspects of nuclear power. She urged international financial institutions such as the World Bank and the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development to fund nuclear power as a completely non-carbon energy source. France supported the establishment of a European Nuclear Safety Training and Tutoring Institute and the creation of an international network of nuclear safety experts to conduct independent evaluations of nuclear power plants under IAEA auspices. It also supported the establishment of an international bank of low-enriched uranium to ensure against interruptions in fuel supply. While opposed to measures that barred countries from access to fuel-cycle technologies, it recognized the proliferation risks associated with such technologies, and, pending further decisions from the Nuclear Suppliers Group, would continue to maintain policies in line with the Statement on Non-Proliferation adopted by the Group of Eight Summit at L'Aquila. Her country employed a closed cycle that recycled a maximum amount of uranium and minimized waste, and would be happy to put its reprocessing facilities at the disposal of other States.

18. She commended the Director General of IAEA for his focus on nuclear applications in health, agriculture and resource management. The Conference offered an opportunity to create a new "nuclear solidarity" that struck the right balance between development of peaceful uses of nuclear energy and responsible non-proliferation policies.

19. **Mr. Komizo** (Japan) said that as a country with few natural resources, Japan had embraced nuclear power early, and approximately 30 per cent of its electricity was supplied by nuclear power plants. It had signed a comprehensive safeguards agreement and the Additional Protocol, ratified relevant international instruments, and enacted appropriate national legislation. It was a supporter of international cooperation on nuclear energy and was happy to share its expertise with a view to helping other countries create a "3S" infrastructure of safeguards, safety and security. As a country prone to earthquakes, Japan took particular interest in the seismic safety of nuclear power plants. It would also engage in confidence-building dialogue with coastal States to reassure them of the safety of transport of nuclear materials. It fully endorsed the communiqué and workplan adopted at the Washington Nuclear Security Summit. He hoped that a consensus could be forged from the wide range of views being expressed on the nuclear fuel cycle.

20. One of the Treaty's main goals was promotion of peaceful uses of nuclear energy not only for electric power but also for applications in health, agriculture and industry. His country had submitted a working paper on strengthening the technical cooperation activities of the International Atomic Energy Agency which stressed the importance of nuclear knowledge-sharing and the transfer of nuclear technology to developing countries. In that regard, his country welcomed the IAEA Director General's cancer therapy initiative. His country had a 100 per cent rate of attainment in its contributions to the IAEA Technical Cooperation Fund and encouraged other States to pay their respective shares.

21. The withdrawal issue needed to be addressed seriously by the Conference's subsidiary bodies, but it should not be necessary to amend article X. As a country that had benefited greatly from nuclear energy, Japan stressed that peaceful uses of nuclear energy should conform to the highest standards of safety, security and transparency, and reaffirmed the role of IAEA in that regard.

22. **Mr. Parnohadiningrat** (Indonesia) said that like other developing countries, Indonesia took great interest in the potential contribution of nuclear energy to development. The right to use nuclear energy for peaceful purposes was a fundamental component of the "grand bargain" of the Treaty, and care should be taken to ensure that additional tasks given to IAEA did not interfere with the Agency's statutory mandate of promoting nuclear technology for peaceful use. He welcomed the reiterated commitment of the Director General of IAEA to more predictable funding for technical cooperation and was pleased to announce that his country would join in sponsoring the working paper on strengthening IAEA technical cooperation activities submitted to the Conference by Japan.

23. The more widely nuclear technology was disseminated, the greater the risk that it would be put to uses that violated the Treaty. Multilateralization of the fuel cycle was one possible solution to that problem, provided that supplies were assured and accession to the Treaty was a condition of access. Export controls could also reduce the risk of proliferation, as long as they were non-discriminatory and took care not to restrict materials intended for humanitarian purposes. The Technical Cooperation Programme of IAEA should be the main vehicle for the transfer of nuclear technology for peaceful purposes, and that Agency should not be politicized in any way. He looked forward to discussion of proposals designed to deter States parties from withdrawing and to encourage all States planning to build nuclear reactors to take the necessary domestic measures to become parties to the relevant international instruments.

24. **Mr. Mourão** (Brazil) said that his country rejected the view that the international community did not have adequate tools at its disposal to confront proliferation. Nuclear energy was an indispensable component of development and an increasingly desirable alternative to fossil fuels. The inalienable right to nuclear energy for peaceful purposes predated the Treaty and should remain sacrosanct. Multilateral approaches to the fuel cycle should not impinge on that right or hinder the normal functioning of the international market for nuclear goods and services. While international cooperation was important, no country should be asked to depend on the goodwill of other countries for access to the benefits of nuclear technology. His country had been among several that had on occasion been denied access to nuclear goods and services to which they were contractually entitled.

25. In addition to reaffirming the right of States to peaceful uses of nuclear energy and recognizing the legitimacy of peaceful nuclear programmes, the Conference should focus on universalizing the Treaty, strengthening IAEA safeguards and supporting the development of proliferation-resistant technologies. Instead of perpetuating the division between nuclear "haves" and "have nots", the Conference should act to ensure both the protection of rights and the fulfilment of obligations provided for by the Treaty.

26. **Mr. Grinius** (Canada) said that his country had dozens of nuclear cooperation agreements with dozens of countries, and was willing to extend cooperation to any partners that met its non-proliferation requirements. Ensuring that peaceful use of nuclear technology would not lead to proliferation of nuclear weapons was crucial for sustaining confidence in the Treaty.

27. The Committee should recommend that the Conference take action to ensure that the balance between rights and responsibilities enshrined in the Treaty was protected and practically implementable; stress that compliance with the Treaty's non-proliferation and verification requirements was the essential basis for peaceful nuclear cooperation; and recommend that IAEA continue to play its essential role in providing technical cooperation to developing countries. The IAEA Technical Cooperation Programme should be transparent, accountable and results-oriented. As current President of the Group of Eight, his country noted that the members of that Group stood ready to provide the technical assistance necessary for States to fulfil safeguards and safety and security requirements, and benefit from nuclear applications in the areas of power, health and food security. Canada had been contributing to IAEA Major Programmes since the Agency's inception and supported, inter alia, its Milestones in the Development of a National Infrastructure for Nuclear Power.

28. He welcomed the November 2009 decision by the IAEA Board of Governors to establish a low-enriched uranium reserve in Russia, as well as other proposals to establish multilateral approaches to the fuel cycle that would assure supply of fuel and services. The Conference should acknowledge the value of multilateral approaches to the fuel cycle that could offer additional confidence in supply beyond that provided by the market and eliminate the need for States to invest in costly and complex fuel-cycle technologies. The Conference should also address potential abuses of the Treaty's withdrawal provision. He drew attention to working papers submitted by the Vienna Group of 10, which contained specific recommendations related to peaceful uses, export controls, physical protection and other issues of relevance to the work of the Committee.

29. **Mr. Aguirre de Cárcer** (Spain), speaking on behalf of the European Union; the candidate countries Croatia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia; the stabilization and association process countries Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro and Serbia; and, in addition, Georgia, Iceland, Liechtenstein, the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine, said that every State had the right to determine its own energy strategy and to develop research, production and use of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes without discrimination. The European Union would continue its efficient and effective support of IAEA. It supported plans to modernize the Agency's Safeguards Analytical Laboratory and was preparing a significant financial contribution to its work. A growing number of States parties to the Treaty were considering developing civil nuclear programmes. The European Union would work to promote such endeavours while ensuring that nuclear technologies were not used for military purposes.

30. The Council of Ministers of the European Union believed that Main Committee III should focus on broadening acceptance and support for the responsible development of the peaceful uses of nuclear energy in the best safety, security and non-proliferation conditions, and for multilateral approaches to the nuclear-fuel cycle (NPT/CONF.2010/WP.31). He also drew attention to the proposals contained in the document NPT/CONF.2010/WP.26, and in particular paragraph 6. Those proposals could be included in a plan of action to be adopted by the Conference.

31. The European Union had developed one of the world's leading nuclear industries on the basis of the standards set forth in the Treaty establishing the European Atomic Energy Community (EURATOM Treaty). The European Union would continue to ensure that the effective verification of such programmes did not hinder the responsible use of nuclear energy. The European Union recognized the need to support States interested in developing a nuclear power programme by helping to provide training and establish the necessary regulatory, administrative and human environment. It noted with interest the convening in Paris on 8 and 9 March 2010 of the International Conference on Access to Civil Nuclear Energy, which had allowed a fruitful exchange of experiences.

32. The European Union made substantial voluntary contributions to the Technical Cooperation Fund of IAEA, and promoted the latter's nuclear security projects through such mechanisms as the Instrument for Nuclear Safety Cooperation, and through bilateral cooperation with States. The European Union was the largest contributor to the Agency's Nuclear Security Fund. Over €20 million had been invested to improve nuclear security in third States. He called on the States parties to the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material to ratify the Amendment as soon as possible.

33. Where it was technically and economically viable to do so, States should minimize the use of highly enriched uranium in peaceful nuclear activities. Multilateral approaches to the nuclear fuel cycle had much to offer. They would complement the existing market without distorting it, thereby providing nuclear fuel supply security for States developing peaceful nuclear programmes.

34. Initiatives such as the establishment of a low-enriched uranium bank under the control of IAEA could facilitate long-term multilateral solutions. The European Union was prepared to contribute up to €25 million for the establishment of an IAEA nuclear fuel bank, once the modalities had been defined and approved by the Agency's Board of Governors. The European Union welcomed the agreement between the Russian Federation and IAEA for the creation of a low-enriched uranium reserve. Several States members of the European Union had put forward similar proposals. The Director General of the Agency had launched valuable initiatives regarding the medical uses of

nuclear energy in developing countries with the objective of promoting economic development.

35. **Mr. Kruse** (Australia), speaking on behalf of the Vienna Group of 10, said that the Group affirmed the right of all States parties to develop research, production and use of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes without discrimination, as long as they fulfilled non-proliferation, safety and security responsibilities. It had submitted working papers on peaceful uses of nuclear energy, nuclear safety, the nuclear fuel cycle and physical protection of nuclear material, each of which contained language carefully crafted to facilitate consensus. It had also submitted a working paper proposing specific elements it wished to see included in any action plan adopted by the Conference.

36. **Mr. Stratford** (United States of America) said that as the Treaty entered its fifth decade, the Conference provided an opportunity to review progress in the peaceful use of nuclear energy. Under article IV, States had the right to use nuclear energy for peaceful purposes as long as they fulfilled their non-proliferation responsibilities. Because uranium enrichment and spent fuel reprocessing could be diverted for military purposes, IAEA had categorized them as sensitive technological areas. Fortunately, States did not need to invest in costly and complex fuel cycle technologies, because the market was capable of ensuring adequate nuclear fuel for civilian uses, and international nuclear fuel banks could provide added assurance of supply.

37. His country had been a pioneer in civilian nuclear cooperation. From the inception of its Atoms for Peace programme in 1953, it had worked with partners around the world on peaceful uses of nuclear energy. It was the single largest contributor to IAEA programmes to develop nuclear applications in health, agriculture and water management, providing over 25 per cent of both the Agency's regular budget and its Technical Cooperation Fund. In her speech at the Conference's opening session, his country's Secretary of State had announced an additional contribution of $50 million over the next five years. Interest in the use of nuclear energy to generate power had increased dramatically in the five years since the previous review conference and was projected by IAEA to more than double by 2030. The United States was a major supporter of the Agency's efforts to guide that expansion based on clear milestones. It also had bilateral cooperation arrangements with over 40 countries.

38. The Treaty's three pillars were mutually reinforcing, and no one of them should be allowed to undermine any of the others. The United States would remain committed to addressing proliferation risks so that no State party would be hindered in its pursuit of peaceful uses.

39. **Mr. Kafando** (Burkina Faso) said that because future access to fossil fuels was uncertain, a growing number of States were seeking to develop nuclear energy. Nuclear technologies could make an essential contribution to agriculture, health and environmental protection. All States parties to the Treaty had an inalienable right to use nuclear energy for peaceful purposes. However, that right was conditional on compliance with non-proliferation obligations and IAEA safeguards. Non-proliferation and the peaceful uses of nuclear technology were therefore mutually reinforcing.

40. Burkina Faso attached great importance to the right to the peaceful use of nuclear energy and believed that the Agency had sole responsibility for promoting that right. States that were in compliance with their obligations should not be hampered in the exercise of their rights. His country welcomed the leadership of IAEA and believed that it should receive the necessary resources for the fulfilment of its mandate.

41. **Mr. García López-Trigo** (Cuba) said that it was vital to maintain a balance between the three pillars of the Treaty. All States had the right under article IV of the Treaty to develop use and production of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes. The Final Document of the 2000 Review Conference had stated that each country's choices and decisions in the field of peaceful uses of nuclear energy should be respected without jeopardizing its policies or international cooperation agreements. The 2010 Review Conference should reaffirm that principle.

42. Cuba attached particular importance to the technical cooperation programmes of IAEA and had been cooperating with the Agency since 1977. However, the Agency had experienced difficulties in obtaining the necessary equipment for its projects with Cuba. Because of the unilateral and unjust embargo imposed by the United States against Cuba, United States companies or companies in which United States investors had a stake could not sell equipment to Cuba.

That situation hampered Cuba's peaceful nuclear programmes; for instance, equipment had to be bought from remote locations.

43. In accordance with the Statute of IAEA, technical cooperation programmes should not be subject to any political conditions. Cuba was concerned at attempts to introduce conditionalities for the full exercise of the right enshrined in article IV, for instance by establishing an obligation to ratify an additional protocol. Such obstacles contravened the letter and spirit of the Treaty, and hampered the Agency in the fulfilment of its mandate. Any attempt to use the Agency as a political tool must be rejected. Agreements for the monitoring of transfers must be transparent, non-discriminatory and open to all States. The Review Conference should establish a mechanism, such as a permanent committee meeting between review conferences, in order to address any specific cases in which transfers of nuclear materials for peaceful purposes were blocked.

44. Cuba had taken note of the various proposals regarding multilateral approaches to the nuclear fuel cycle. The issue was a complex and multifaceted one, and had wide-ranging technical, legal, political and economic implications. It therefore required cautious and thorough consideration and comprehensive and transparent negotiations. Discussion of the matter should be based on the idea that the provision of nuclear fuel must not under any circumstances become the monopoly of a small number of States, much less an additional mechanism for political pressure. Proposals on the topic should be consistent with the Statute of IAEA and should not prejudice the fundamental right enshrined in article IV of the Treaty. Any decision should be adopted by consensus and with the participation of all States.

45. Any attack or threat of attack against civil nuclear facilities, whether active or under construction, posed a danger for humanity and the environment and violated the Charter of the United Nations and the Statute of IAEA. A comprehensive instrument should be adopted on the basis of multilateral negotiations in order to prohibit such actions.

46. **Mr. Enkhsaikhan** (Mongolia) said that nuclear energy could help to meet energy needs, improve health care, protect the environment, foster agricultural development and improve the management of water resources, thereby promoting sustainable development and the realization of the Millennium Development Goals. The Conference should reaffirm the right of all parties to the Treaty to develop research, production and use of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes without discrimination. It should be clearly underlined that nuclear energy meant both power and other applications.

47. Over 60 countries were considering developing nuclear industry, in particular through the construction of nuclear power stations. While fully supporting the inalienable right enshrined in article IV of the Treaty, his delegation believed that compliance with the non-proliferation and verification requirements of the Treaty was essential for effective and fruitful cooperation. Mongolia had recently decided to build a nuclear power station and to develop its uranium resources in full compliance with nuclear safety and security standards. All States should place their nuclear activities and materials under IAEA safeguards in order to maintain confidence in their peaceful character. In the same way, nuclear-weapon States should allow further access to IAEA inspections in order to ensure compliance with accepted norms and standards.

48. Mongolia was now taking action to accede to international conventions on nuclear safety and was examining the conventions on nuclear liability. Although safety was the primary responsibility of States, international cooperation was vital for the exchange of information and experience. His delegation therefore welcomed the outcome of the summit on nuclear security held in Washington in April 2010.

49. Mongolia welcomed the initiative of the IAEA Commission on Safety Standards to review and improve the overall structure of IAEA safety standards. Strengthening the role of the Agency meant, inter alia, enhancing its effectiveness and transparency, and increasing its resources for technical cooperation activities in a sufficient, assured and predictable manner.

50. The agreement between the Agency and the Russian Federation for the establishment of a low-enriched uranium reserve was a first step in addressing the issue. Numerous other proposals had been submitted. His delegation believed that the question should be examined comprehensively, and that any attempt to prevent fuel transfers on political grounds should be rejected.

51. **Mr. van den IJssel** (Netherlands) said that at a time of nuclear renaissance, the right to the peaceful use of nuclear energy was essential, as were the corresponding responsibilities. As a country with enrichment capacities, the Netherlands took a particular interest in the development of multilateral approaches to the nuclear fuel cycle. Such mechanisms would allow the nuclear fuel market to expand while minimizing proliferation risks. His country welcomed the agreement between IAEA and the Russian Federation for the establishment of a low-enriched uranium reserve. The international discussion on such multilateral approaches had yet to yield tangible results. His country hoped that the Conference would endorse a process for multilateral nuclear fuel assurances.

52. The Agency played a fundamental role in helping States to exercise their rights and comply with their obligations under article IV of the Treaty. The Netherlands strongly supported the Agency's technical cooperation programmes, in particular those that contributed to realizing the Millennium Development Goals and supporting the least developed countries. That assistance should be provided under the best safety and security conditions. It was vital that IAEA should be adequately funded. The Netherlands would continue to make contributions, and called on the Conference to look at ways to ensure the best use of available funds.

53. **Mr. Valero Briceño** (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela) said that one of the most pressing contemporary challenges was to secure clean energy resources in order to fulfil basic needs. Over 60 developing States had requested IAEA assistance in order to gain access to nuclear energy, which could help to counter climate change and promote economic and social development. However, certain nuclear States applied the provisions of the Treaty selectively and placed restrictions on technical cooperation that would allow the development of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes. His country rejected any attempt to hamper that legitimate right. It was a cause of concern that certain States tended towards making technical cooperation conditional on the fulfilment of obligations over and above those set forth in IAEA safeguards agreements. Any attempt to hamper the peaceful use of nuclear technology reinterpreted and delegitimized the Treaty.

54. The Conference should therefore reaffirm the right of States to the development and use of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes. It should recognize the importance of nuclear energy in improving living standards and emphasize the technical nature of the Agency's work. Any attempt to restrict technical cooperation on political grounds was incompatible with the Treaty and the Statute of IAEA, and should be rejected. If the Conference failed to promote confidence in the international system, the credibility of the nuclear security regime would be undermined.

55. **Mr. Argüello** (Argentina) said that the right to the use of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes had existed before the Treaty and was an essential part of the understanding that had allowed its adoption. Any attempt to redefine the balance of the obligations contained in the Treaty or to question the right enshrined in article IV would undermine the non-proliferation regime. Argentina was convinced of the benefits of peaceful nuclear technology and had acquired considerable experience in that area. His delegation wished to see further measures to promote the exchange of nuclear technology for peaceful purposes. The Agency had special responsibility for promoting technical cooperation and maintaining safeguards. It should maintain a balance between those functions and should be adequately funded and staffed.

56. Recent attempts to redefine article IV of the Treaty were unhelpful. Instead, non-proliferation should be upheld through the rational application of existing regulations. Nuclear safeguards mechanisms had shown their effectiveness over the years. At the same time, there remained a risk that the current system could be abused for the development of nuclear weapons. In such cases, the international community should consider measures to impose sanctions, or to suspend or restrict cooperation. Argentina would not cooperate on nuclear technology with any State that failed to comply with its obligations under the Treaty and safeguards agreements. It was essential to implement responsible policies for the export of nuclear materials and to ensure greater transparency in the monitoring of such exports. Nor should nuclear trade be affected by measures of a non-technical nature. The international community must uphold non-proliferation standards and reaffirm article IV of the Treaty.

The meeting rose at 6 p.m.